



American Legion Post 201

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Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025

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*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

***The Post is closed today. Will reopen for regular hours tomorrow.***

### **~ An Editorial Observation ~**

Thanksgiving and the U.S. military have a connection that dates back to the nation's founding, with military success often sparking early calls for a day of thanks. This intertwined history is reflected in how service members, both active-duty and veterans, observe the holiday today, blending national tradition with unique military life experiences.

For deployed service members, Thanksgiving is a powerful morale booster, providing a "taste of home" far from loved ones. The Defense Logistics Agency plays a crucial role, working months in advance to ship hundreds of thousands of pounds of traditional foods—turkey, ham, sweet potatoes, pies, and all the trimmings—to troops in hard-to-reach places around the world. This logistical feat ensures that, whether in a field kitchen in Poland or on a Navy ship at sea, service members can gather for a traditional meal.

A common tradition on bases is for high-ranking officers and base leadership to serve the holiday meal to the troops, a gesture that fosters camaraderie and shows appreciation for their sacrifice.

For veterans and military families back home, Thanksgiving can be a time of both celebration and reflection. The holiday may evoke memories of past deployments or honor the empty seats at the table for those lost in service.

Ultimately, Thanksgiving for the U.S. military and veterans is a blend of traditional American gratitude and a unique sense of shared sacrifice, community, and resilience, celebrated in ways that honor both family and duty.

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## **Fun Facts for 'Turkey-Day' Table Talk**

"Jingle Bells" was originally written for a Thanksgiving program. Titled "One Horse Open Sleigh," and written by composer James Lord Pierpont, its lyrics were inspired by sleigh rides. Originally published in 1857, it quickly became associated with the Christmas season and its title was changed to "Jingle Bells" by the time it was re-published in 1859.

The modern Thanksgiving holiday was established after Sarah Josepha Hale, an editor and author of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," campaigned for it for 38 years. Abraham Lincoln eventually declared the last Thursday of November a national day of thanksgiving in 1863.

The "first Thanksgiving" was a 1621 harvest feast in Plymouth, Mass., shared by approximately 52 English Pilgrims and 90 members of the Wampanoag tribe. The three-day event was a celebration of the colonists' first successful harvest, which they achieved with the Wampanoag's help. The menu included fowl and venison, but did not feature pies or other desserts.

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving up one week to extend the Christmas shopping season, an act that created a national split until Congress officially set the date in 1941.

The first TV dinner was introduced by C.A. Swanson and Sons in 1953, selling for 98 cents and consisting of turkey, cornbread dressing, peas, and sweet potatoes in an aluminum tray. The idea for the convenient, pre-packaged frozen meal was born partly out of a need to use up 260-tons of surplus of frozen turkeys after the 1953 Thanksgiving holiday. Marketed to capitalize on the rise of television viewing, it was a commercial success, selling more than 10 million units in its first year.

Americans consume approximately 46 million turkeys on Thanksgiving, and the average Thanksgiving dinner can contain about 4,500 calories.

The first unofficial turkey pardon is attributed to Abraham Lincoln in 1863 for a turkey named Jack, but the first official, annual ceremony began with George H.W. Bush in 1989. While other presidents, like John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, had also spared turkeys in the years before, Bush formalized the tradition and announced that the turkey would be granted a presidential pardon.

There are four U.S. towns named Turkey. They are:

- Turkey, Texas: The town's name comes from a creek where wild turkeys roosted, and it was originally called

Turkey Roost. It has a population of a few hundred residents.

- Turkey Creek, Louisiana: This is the most populous of the "Turkey" towns, with fewer than 500 residents.
- Turkey, North Carolina: Originally called Springville, the town changed its name after wild turkeys became prevalent in the area. It is located in Sampson County.
- Turkey Creek, Arizona: This is a census-designated place (CDP) located in Navajo County.

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## ~ ~ IN MEMORY ~ ~

### Doug Griffith

*January 23, 1945 – November 22, 2025*

A U.S. Air Force veteran who served in Vietnam, he was a member of the Post for the past three years. A memorial service is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the Post ballroom. [Click here](#) for details.

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### Donald W. Perry

*August 2, 1937 - November 25, 2025*

A U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam, Don was a 16-year member of Post 201. For more information on visitation and services [click here](#) to visit the Northside Chapel Funeral Directors and Crematory web site.

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## Upcoming Post 201, Other Veteran Related Activities

***Every Sunday at 7 p.m. - - Karaoke in the Clubroom/Bar.  
Lots of Laughs, Good Times, and even Greater People.  
Libations at a much better price than downtown!***

***9-Ball Pool Tournament, 2 p.m.  
Every 3rd Sunday in the Clubroom/Bar***

**VIEW FEATURED  
POST EVENTS**

**Support Wreaths Across America** - - The Patriots of Liberty Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are seeking support to sponsor remembrance wreaths to be placed on vet's graves in the Alpharetta area. To support them and sponsor a wreath, or to purchase one for your personal use, [click here](#) to visit the DAR Chapter's web page to place an order.

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**Tuesday, Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting.** The meeting was rescheduled from Thursday, Dec. 4 to accommodate prior commitments of some key committee members.

**Tuesday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting.**

**Sunday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m. BINGO in the Ballroom.** This will be the only Bingo afternoon during the month of December.

**Tuesday, Dec. 16. No General Membership Meeting in December.**

**Thursday, Dec. 18, 8;30 a.m. - 5 p.m. LifeLine Screening at Post.** [Click here for details.](#)

**Wednesday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. Post Clubroom/Bar will close for Christmas.**

**Thursday, Dec. 25. Post is closed for Christmas Day.**

**Wednesday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve Gala.** Reserved seat tickets for the Post's annual New Year's Eve Gala are on sale, online now. [Click here](#) for more details and to purchase your reserved seats. And keep in mind - - tickets are available only through an online purchase.

**Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2025, 6:30 p.m. SAL Membership Meeting.** *Special Note: There will be no SAL membership meetings in November or December according to SAL Commander Derek Garmon.*

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**CLUB 201 DANCE -  
LEARN MORE**

## VETERANS RESOURCES

Visit the [Resource Page](#) at Post 201's website, [www.legion201.org](http://www.legion201.org) for a significant amount of information concerning various resources available for veterans. You'll find a Survivor Assistance Checklist, Benefits for Georgia Veterans, Burial at Sea Information, Veteran's License Plates Information, Emergency Housing Information Guide and many other resources.

**Past Issues of the Post's E-newsletter - [Click here.](#)**

**Veterans Crisis Line**

**Call 988 and Press 1 or Text 838255**

**Visit [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)**

**VA Telephone Hotline - 1-877-222-8387**

**Post 201 Service Officer Hotline for Vets-at-Risk - 631-720-6022**